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March 23, 1962  
NUMBER S-5200.13

GC, DoD

## Department of Defense Directive

**SUBJECT Security and Public Information Policy  
for Military Space Programs (S)**

### **I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This directive establishes security and public information policy for military space programs and is applicable to all components of the Department of Defense.

### **II. GENERAL POLICY**

- A.** Adequate protection of military space programs is vital to the security of the United States. This requires the capability to launch, control, and recover space vehicles without public knowledge of the timing of these actions or of the specific mission involved. It is impractical to selectively protect certain military space programs while continuing an open launch policy for others since to do so would emphasize sensitive projects.
- B.** The security principle of need-to-know for military space projects must be vigorously enforced within DoD, DoD advisory groups, and by Defense contractors.
- C.** Rigorous care must be taken to insure that information revealing the identification, mission, scope, or capability of specific military space projects and programs does not appear in unclassified documents and presentations.

NRO review(s)  
completed.

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EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10  
DOES NOT APPLY

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- D. Unauthorized public discussion by Defense and Defense contractor personnel of the results, effectiveness, capabilities, and potentialities of specific military space projects and programs must be eliminated.

**III. PROCEDURES**

- A. Military space projects and space vehicles henceforth will be identified by means of numerical and alphabetical designators selected and assigned at random; except for boosters, names or nicknames no longer will be used.
1. Military space projects will be identified by a numerical designator.
  2. Military space vehicles will be identified by an alphabetical prefix followed by a numerical designator, such as Orbital Vehicle (OV-7), Final Stage Vehicle (FSV-2), etc.
- B. The new method of identifying military space vehicles and projects will not be associated with their payload or mission except under the most strict security procedures and will be published in as few documents as possible. Titles of project documents will not refer to the mission or payload associated with the project. Launch or recovery schedules and funding for specific payloads or mission areas will be classified SECRET or higher.
- C. All public information news releases on military space programs will be cleared through a single office, and normally no releases will be made until after experiments have been conducted and after preliminary analyses of data have been completed.

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- D. Preparation and dissemination of over-all reports, development plans, and other documents on military space projects and programs will be severely limited and controlled. Detailed need-to-know justification will be required on the basis of need for specific information, rather than for particular documents. The number of persons authorized a blanket need-to-know will be sharply curtailed and continuously controlled.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. The heads of all DoD components having responsibilities for military space projects and programs are responsible for insuring adherence to the provisions of this directive.
- B. The Secretary of the Air Force is responsible for:
1. Determining and assigning identification nomenclature for all military space projects and vehicles.
  2. Maintaining a central registry of all military space project numbers and space vehicle designators.
- C. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) is responsible for maintaining the single office through which all public information news releases on DoD space projects and programs will be cleared.
- D. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is responsible for developing and issuing program and budgetary guidance consistent with the provisions of this directive.

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V.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

- A. This directive is effective immediately. Existing documentation on military space projects and programs will be superseded by new documents as rapidly as they can be prepared and issued.
- B. Every component of the Department will revise its regulations and other instructions to conform with the provisions of this directive.

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[Redacted]  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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